COMMUNITY

Pages 8-9 – Honoring Latino Leaders Across Michigan

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

Page 10 - Wolverines defeat Badgers

Sé testigo de esperanza para los inmigrantes

Adaptado de un artículo original de Detroit Catholic; escrito y fotos por Daniel Meloy

El arzobispo Weisenburger llama a los católicos a ser testigos de esperanza para los inmigrantes

Uno de cada 67 habitantes del planeta ha tenido que huir de su hogar.

Es una cifra alarmante del informe 2024 de la Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados, que documentó que más de 123 millones de personas en todo el mundo se han visto obligadas a escapar de la guerra, la violencia, la persecución, violaciones a los derechos humanos, desastres naturales y crisis económicas graves.

Por eso, la Iglesia universal celebró recientemente el Jubileo de los Migrantes y el Jubileo de las Misiones, en los que el papa León XIV recordó a todos los católicos su deber de acoger y apoyar a los migrantes, e imitar el amor de Dios hacia ellos.

En Detroit, la organización Strangers No Longer (Ya No Somos Extraños) organizó una misa especial en la Catedral del Santísimo Sacramento el pasado 5 de octubre. Durante la ceremonia, el arzobispo Edward J. Weisenburger reconoció el trabajo del grupo y sus Círculos de Apoyo, que acompañan a migrantes y refugiados en el sureste de Michigan.

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Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger imparts an apostolic blessing upon the congregation at the conclusion of an Oct. 5 Mass for the Jubilee of Migrants at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit.

Be witnesses of hope for immigrants

Edited from an original article from the Detroit Catholic; story and photos by Daniel Meloy

During Jubilee of Migrants Mass, Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger lauds the courage and faith of those forced from their homes, offers apostolic blessing

One in every 67 people on earth has been forced to flee their home.

It is a sobering statistic from a 2024 report from the United Nations Refugee Agency, which documented that more than 123 million people worldwide have been forced to escape war, violence, persecution, human rights violations, environmental catastrophes and severe economic hardship.

For this reason, the universal Church recently celebrated the Jubilee of Migrants and the Jubilee of the Missions, during which Pope Leo XIV reminded all Catholics of their duty to welcome and assist migrants and imitate God's love for them.

Locally, Detroit-based Strangers No Longer organized a Mass for the Jubilee of Migrants at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit on Oct. 5, when Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger commended the group and its work in forming "Circles of Support" for migrants and refugees living in southeast Michigan.

"I'm deeply grateful for Strangers No Longer; yours

Continues on page 6

Detroit Election Videos Bridge Gap Between Candidates and Voters

EL CENTRAL Hispanic Newspaper is proud to announce a partnership with Detroit nonprofit CitizenDetroit that has produced over sixty videos with 31 candidates running for public office across Detroit's municipal elections.

The collaboration brings candidates directly to voters and covers races for mayor, all seven City Council districts plus at-large seats, police commissioners for each district, and community advisory boards for districts 4 and 5.

"CitizenDetroit is proud to partner with El Central to share candidate videos across Instagram and Facebook," said CitizenDetroit CEO Sheila Cockrel. "This collaboration expands access to civic information, ensuring Detroit voters can hear directly from those seeking to represent them. By meeting people where they are—on the platforms they use every day—we're strengthening democracy and making sure more voices are heard."

While every candidate was invited to participate in the free opportunity, the 60+ videos feature those who chose to take part, including mayoral frontrunner Mary Sheffield and District 6 candidates incumbent Gabriela Santiago-Romero and challenger Tyrone Carter, a former state representative.

All mayoral and District 6 candidate videos have been translated into Spanish and are available on @elcentralmedia on Instagram and EL CENTRAL Hispanic News on Facebook. Accompanying posts for each race list all candidates, whether they participated or not, and whether they're on the ballot or running as write-ins.

"I think most people find election season a bit overwhelming," said EL CENTRAL Digital Content Manager Michael D. Gutierrez, who filmed and edited all videos. "So when the opportunity arose to work with CitizenDetroit to create a stronger connection between candidates and voters, one that's not so buttoned-up, it seemed like a great way to bridge that gap."

Cockrel and Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Larson led the organizing and production. The interviews were conducted by Cockrel along with CitizenDetroit volunteers Arabia Simeon of Politics on the Go, and hip-hop artist/cultural organizer Dominique Campbell.

Each three-minute video

follows a two-part format. Candidates first answered one of three questions written specifically for their race on hot-button issues such as facial recognition technology and police accountability. Part two featured fun Detroit-themed questions—Lafayette or American Coney Island, Vernors or Faygo, "Detroit Hustles Harder" or "Detroit Versus Everybody"—because a candidate's choice says something about who they are as a Detroiter.

Spanish-speaking voters can watch mayoral and District 6 videos on @elcentralmedia on Instagram and EL CENTRAL Hispanic News on Facebook. All candidate videos in English with subtitles are available on @citizendetroit on Instagram, CitizenDetroit7575 on YouTube, and CitizenDetroit on Facebook.

scan to watch subtitled videos on YouTube
CITIZEN DETROIT
escanea para ver videos con subtítulos en YouTube
Detroit Election 2025
GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES
Elección Detroit 2025
CONOCE A LOS CANDIDATOS

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First of its kind center offers free member services:

Kirk Gibson Center for Parkinson's Wellness Opens

On Monday, October 6, the Kirk Gibson Foundation ("KGF") hosted the official grand opening ribbon cutting celebration for The Kirk Gibson Center for Parkinson's Wellness ("the Center"), a first-of- its- kind in Michigan. Located at 31440 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, MI, the Center is a world-class facility providing a supportive community where those impacted with Parkinson's can access a wide range of activity -based and educational programs, completely free of charge.

The Kirk Gibson Center for Parkinson's Wellness began construction in March 2025 and was transformed from an office building for an automotive organization to the state's only standalone wellness center focused on Parkinson's. The 32,000-square-foot facility spans two levels, each offering distinct programs that focus on movement and cognitive therapy.

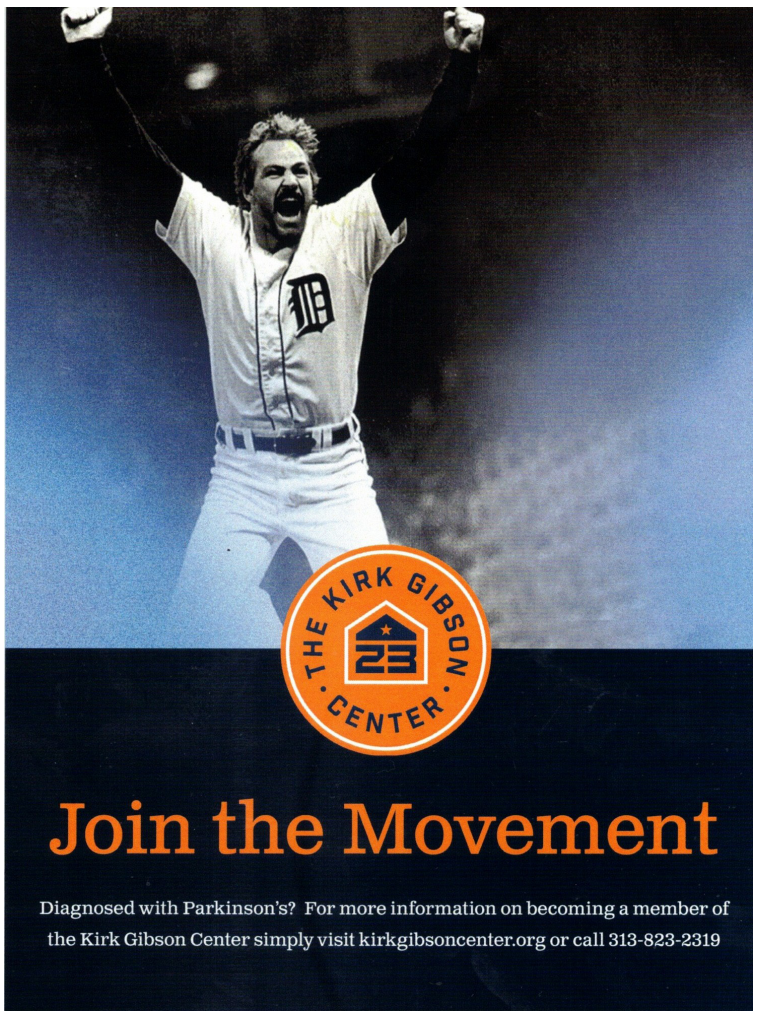
The Center also houses the headquarters for the Kirk Gibson Foundation for Parkinson's, who moved their offices into the Center to further provide combined team support. The renovation was in partnership with the Detroit based team and the world's most influential architecture, design and planning firm, Gensler. With the goal of creating a Center that provides physical, emotional, and social support for those living with Parkinson's, Gensler designed the new facility's thoughtful applications of color and patterns, as well as light levels, creating spaces that are accessible, navigable, and spacious throughout the Center.

The Center is strategically and intentionally located within a 30-minute driving radius from 70 percent of the Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties, providing access to an estimated 8,000 living with Parkinson's in Metro Detroit. The Center anticipates as many as 70,000 visits annually and in its first month of full operations, will offer approximately 75 hours of weekly programming, providing much needed physical, emotional, and social support to those living with the disease and their caregivers.

Since initially announcing the Center was opening back in 2024, there has been remarkable interest from the Parkinson's community, where the demand to join has already far exceeded early expectations. Nearly 900 individuals have already registered, with more than 300 members onboarded and over 200 now actively participating in classes. This extraordinary response has confirmed what Kirk Gibson envisioned: a place where members are not only accessing resources, but also building a culture and community of their own.

Guided by a "Movement Matters" concept, the barrier-free interior features a large gathering hall with an overhead 360-degree oval walk/run track; a gym for strength and cardio; a boxing therapy zone; various rooms dedicated to targeted exercises such as yoga, tai chi, Pilates, and dance; general fitness areas, as well as a full multi-purpose gym.

Kirk Gibson speaking at the opening of the new Parkinson's Wellness Center. Photo by Mike Alberts.


THE KIRK GIBSON CENTER
Join the Movement
Diagnosed with Parkinson's? For more information on becoming a member of the Kirk Gibson Center simply visit kirkgibsoncenter.org or call 313-823-2319

The Gibson Movement. Kirk Gibson photo by Mary Schroeder.

Across its spaces, the center offers formal and informal therapy programs, such as table tennis, ping pong, and foosball, as well as dedicated rooms for speech, music, and art therapies; classrooms for fall and kitchen safety, nutrition, and wellness; private counseling spaces; a community lounge; and supporting amenities (specialized changing rooms, offices, storage, kitchen, laundry). Programming is free and focuses on exercise, learning, and social connection. The main area of the Center features a custom graphic that spans the top of the space underscoring the Foundation's mission with words of motivation: "Movement Matters".

October 24-26 at Orchestra Hall

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Presents The Three Mexican Tenors

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) invites audiences to experience an evening of passion, melody, and celebration on the PNC Pops Series with The Three Mexican Tenors, October 24–26 at Orchestra Hall.

Led by Enrico Lopez-Yañez, DSO Principal Pops Conductor (Devereaux Family Chair), the program blends operatic favorites and beloved popular songs—from Libiamo and O Sole Mio to You Raise Me Up and Time to Say Goodbye—and culminates in a heartfelt tribute to legendary Mexican voices including Luis Miguel, Juan Gabriel, and Vicente Fernández. Featured on this program are acclaimed tenors Bernardo Bermudez, Alfredo Carrillo, and Jorge Lopez-Yañez (Enrico's father).

The Three Mexican Tenors will take place on Friday, October 24 at 10:45 a.m.; Saturday, October 25 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, October 26 at 3 p.m. in Orchestra Hall. Tickets for these performances start at $19.95 and can be purchased at www.dso.org or by calling the Box Office at 313.576.5111, open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The title sponsor of the DSO's PNC Pops Series is PNC Bank.

Program celebrates the spirit and soul of Mexico's rich musical heritage

Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) Principal Pops Conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez

Bernardo Bermudez

Alfredo Carrillo

Jorge Lopez- Yanez

Seguimo' Aqui: From Detroit to Puerto Rico for El Conejo Malo

By Juanita Zuniga / Photos by Juanita Zuniga unless otherwise noted

Thirty-one shows, three Billboard covers and counting, one Amazon Music special and another Saturday Night Live appearance making him two more visits shy of being a part of the infamous five-timers club.

And recently announced, next February, we can expect him to headline the biggest stage in America--The Super Bowl.

According to the Chinese calendar, 2025 is said to be the year of the Snake.

But we all know 2025 belongs to one bunny and that's Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio.

After the release of his 6th studio album titled Debi Tirar Mas Fotos (DTMF, I Should Have Taken More Photos), Bad Bunny announced the official No Me Quiero Ir de Aqui (I don't want to leave here) tour dates excluding the continental U.S.

Instead, he made fans come to him, dropping 31 shows from July 2025 to September 2025 all held at Coliseo de Puerto Rico José Miguel Agrelot commonly known as El Choli in San Juan, Puerto. The first nine shows were exclusively for Puerto Rican residents. After the initial shows, the rest were opened up to and for anyone who could make it to Puerto Rico.

According to i-D Magazine, Bad Bunny said in a statement, "There were many reasons why I didn't show up in the US, and none of them were out of hate—I've performed there many times. All of them have been magnificent," he says. "But specifically, for a residency here in Puerto Rico, when we are an unincorporated territory of the US…Latinos and Puerto Ricans of the United States could also travel here, or to any part of the world. But there was the issue of—like, ICE could be outside [my concert]. And it's something that we were talking about and very concerned about."

As a long time fan of Bad Bunny, I just knew I had to be there. This wasn't the first time I travelled to go to a Bad Bunny show but it would be the furthest. I really didn't need to think about the decision that long before I made the choice, I knew I'd be going. The album has by far become my favorite, it was such a deeply reflective piece of Who is Bad Bunny? And where he comes from; but, also, the way he's intertwined modern day Reggaeton, Dembow, and 'Latino Pop' music to reinvigorate salsa, bomba, and plena feels historical.

Plus, Bad Bunny is just one of those artists that you don't miss on tour. And I knew I wasn't going to be the only one travelling all the way to Puerto Rico to see La Leyenda himself in his homeland.

"It was the FOMO [fear of missing out]," said Haley Montesinos, from Detroit, who attended the residency on August 31st. "When he announced the residency, I ended up buying them when he released the VIP tickets. It was an impulsive decision but I knew it was going to be something special, and it definitely was. It was worth every dollar."

One thing super inclusive about the residency is that tickets were not priced at expensive prices either and if you still didn't get tickets just outside of El Choli there was a whole plaza celebration in anticipation for the concert--every weekend from the start to the end of the show. From sponsors like Garnier, to Visa, T-Mobile, and Jet Blue just to name a few, they all had something for folks to do outside. There were kiosks to try and interact with, free giveaways, and local food vendors.

The show from the No Me Quiero Ir de Aquí tour I attended was on August 24th and it started exactly at 8:30pm, on the dot. No Latino time around here.

Bad Bunny performing hit song "Baile Inolividable".

I was ready, I had done my research online. We were going to see all the personas and eras (if you will) of Bad Bunny. From Trap Bunny to El Salsero, to Sad Bunny. There was a wide range of discography to get through and this concert was about three hours long. I also expected a special guest. Up until that point, musical guests included: Ivy Queen, Young Miko, Feid, RaiNao, Chuwi, and Residente.

The arena was set up in two pieces. One side held a large billboard-esque screen that looked like it was placed right in the middle of a woody-greenery-forrest. The other side was a house--La Casita-- a familial small recreation of a home but symbolic to Bad Bunny's upbringing.

The lights when off and the arena filled with an uproar of screams from fans shouting "wooooh" and "Beniiiittooo"

One thing about this tour, it told a story. The lights came on, and two people emerged, one looking for their drum and the other their camera. In a way, representing their roots and their memories or connections. Interacting with the crowd helped find their items hidden amongst the greenery, then more dancers in all-white almost Traditional jibaro clothing.

The tune of Bad's recent song ALAMBRE PúA filled the arena.

The rest was astronomical. Bad Bunny performed. Yes, this was a show in Puerto Rico for the world to see but he was really performing for Puerto Rico, he always has and this concert finally made that evident for everyone. He showed us his home and how these songs, especially from DTMF, go beyond him but speak to Puerto Rico, what's happening there, and the Diaspora.

"It helped me see a different perspective of him, how he's taking action to help his people and his island. You don't see a lot of artists caring about any other thing besides their pockets, so it's nice to see him advocate for some things going on in Puerto Rico," said Azucena Soto, Detroit Native, who also attended August 24th, "which makes me want to listen to his music more and kind of pay a little bit more attention to what he's doing."

From dramatic-interstellar light show to El Apagon to perreo en La Casita. Bad Bunny fans heard many songs from his discography including x100pre, YHLQMDLG, and of course the long awaited songs to hear live from DTMF like Eoo, Baile Inolvidable, and NuevaYol.

August 24th special guests included Chuwi, Belinda, and Nicky Jam.

At his residency, Bad Bunny also reminded fans to be present. He asked for fans to put down their phones, their cameras, and be in the moment with him. He thanked Puerto Rico, he thanked the visitors, and reminded everyone--through struggle, love, and hardship you still have community, family, and friends.

He ended the show Performing La Mudanza, which pays tribute to his story, his parents, and where he comes from and the resilience of Puerto Rico. He thanked his mom, his dad, siblings, and even getting a little emotional mentioning family of his who had passed on.

Then, he thanked everyone en el Choli for not just supporting him but his message too.

"The concert itself is super special. I really like that he made us go to him. It was the top concert to be at because you just felt empowered, proud to be Latino, even if you're not Boricua, you know, he's still saying raise your flag, I'll remember this trip forever," said Montesinos. "This concert was definitely something that we Latinos needed, especially this year."

He gave us passion, he gave us tradition, he gave us a love letter to Puerto Rico. All in three hours.

Travelling to Puerto Rico was a whole separate experience within itself filled with waking up on the beach to watch the sunrise in Luquillo, biking through El Yunque (the Rainforest), dancing salsa in the streets of San Juan with strangers, and eating the best quesitos and empandillas de pizza. That's a story for another time though and an experience I'll never forget. If you missed the Residency in Puerto Rico, you still have a chance to see Bad Bunny on tour all over Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time. Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Bad Bunny performing "La Mudanza" released on most recent album DeBÍ TiRAR MáS FOToS.

Juanita Zuniga in front of Infamous DTMF Mural done by Humberto Olivieri Ortiz in San Juan.

Bad Bunny and his dancers emerge to center stage during ALAMBRE PúA. Photo by Azucena Soto.

Detroiters propose $1 ticket surcharge on DCFC games to fund home repair

By Malachi Barrett from Bridge Detroit – Reprinted with permission

Community representatives presented developers behind the new Detroit City FC stadium in Corktown with a thorough plan for home repair funding, a game day shuttle, support for small businesses and other long-term neighborhood investments informed by the highs and lows of prior community benefits negotiations.

A neighborhood advisory council selected by residents and city officials is knee-deep in Detroit's 16th community benefits process, which requires developers that seek big tax breaks to commit to investments negotiated with surrounding residents. Members said Thursday they have studied the shortcomings of previous benefits agreements, including the nearby Michigan Central project, and came to the table with a comprehensive plan that can still evolve in response to community feedback.

"A lot of the previous (neighborhood advisory councils) got railroaded by big developers because the process was young and people didn't really understand how it was going to work," said advisory member Olivia Hubert. "This group has benefited a lot from previous (processes). Our (group) has kind of put together all the best parts of the other processes before us."

Detroit City FC is seeking $88 million in tax breaks to help build a $198 million soccer stadium complex, parking deck and 76-unit apartment building at the site of the former Southwest Detroit Hospital. It would be located just east of I-96 and south of Michigan Avenue.

Advisory council member Sam Butler said the group also sought to incorporate recommendations from an industry standards board, which advocates for improved working conditions in Detroit arenas.

The advisory council is seeking a $17 per hour minimum wage for stadium staff, a commitment to give 50% of permanent jobs to Detroit residents, prioritize hiring people from surrounding neighborhoods, child care and transportation services for workers and a neutral stance on union membership. Butler is also executive director of Doing Development Differently in Metro Detroit and a member of a City Council task force on equitable development.

A $1 surcharge on every ticket to fund repairs for older homes is one of the more prominent asks from the neighborhood council. Residents said they're open to other funding strategies, but there's a significant need for home repair. Roughly 400 homes in an impact area defined by the city were built before 1980 and most were built before 1930.

Detroit City FC co-founder Sean Mann and other partners on the project will review the proposal while the neighborhood group collects more feedback from residents. The next listening session is scheduled for Friday, October 10 at noon at Donut Villa, 5875 W. Vernor Hwy. Residents can also complete an online survey at www.bit.ly/DCFCNAC or send comments to the group at dcfcnac@gmail.com.

Mann said he appreciated all the work and care that went into crafting the community benefits requests. The City Council is responsible for authorizing a benefits package after the neighborhood group strikes a deal with developers.

"I really genuinely believe, Sean, that we can build a good relationship as neighbors for many decades to come, and I hope that is what comes out of this process," said Brianna Williamson, president of the North Corktown Neighborhood Association.

Williamson said four large developments triggered the community benefits process in the area since 2017 but residents are still grappling with the same issues, "which means aren't getting met by the current resources." Traffic congestion, closure of public spaces for private events, a lack of affordable housing and pedestrian safety are a few issues flagged by the group.

"Most of us sitting up here are currently affected by a previous (community benefits agreement) that lacks protections for how we get to access the neighborhood," she said. "There is a very real strain on essentially making places that we have all chosen as our homes, kind of a nightmare to live amongst as neighbors, and we would really love the opportunity to work with Detroit City FC and the city on creating policy around how we actually prioritize the residents who live here, not just the residents who come in here to treat our city like Disneyland and then go back to their homes."

In a Friday statement to BridgeDetroit, Mann said that DCFC has been dedicated to Detroit and its residents since its founding in 2012. The DCFC leadership team also lives within walking distance of the stadium, he said.

"I am grateful to our neighbors that are serving as volunteers on the NAC committee," Mann said. "Their commitment to the process and willingness to listen and organize all the community concerns means a lot to the Club and we look forward to completing this process with them."

The advisory group, in its Thursday proposal, also asked developers to fund a community land trust that would prevent "rapid gentrification" of a historically low-income area and ensure apartments planned in a building adjacent to the stadium are affordable for people making 50% of the area median income – equal to $1,136 a month for a two-bedroom unit.

Transit access, pedestrian safety and traffic mitigation was another major theme of the Thursday night discussion. Residents said their neighborhoods are being overwhelmed as the city grows and major events come to Corktown and Southwest Detroit.

The neighborhood council is seeking a planning study on strategies to address long-term parking and vacant land use in the impact area. They also asked for a traffic control plan for events and a shuttle service running on all 44 event days.

Advisory council member Mari Anzicek said she was trapped for several minutes while trying to leave Sicily's Pizzeria on West Vernor during a recent Tuesday afternoon. She worries main streets will become much worse on game days.

"The proposed stadium is sitting on two of the four main entry points to Southwest Detroit," Anzicek said. "Residents on the west side of the stadium are trapped by industry, the river and freeways, and we have very few evacuation routes. Traffic has the potential to shut down this area for residents trying to move in and around their homes and the rest of Detroit."

Other transit amenities requested include adding a bus stop, benches and MOGO bikeshare stations outside the stadium and other locations in the impact area, wayfinding signs directing visitors to local businesses, enhanced crosswalks, bike lanes, cameras and traffic calming measures along major streets.

Advisory council member Danielle Manley said the new stadium is a great opportunity for small businesses that serve as important pieces of culture in the area. The group asked for at least half of concessions businesses be set aside for Detroit-based businesses, permanent pop-up spaces for local retailers, facade repair funding for businesses in the impact area, plus technical assistance and business accelerator support.

Only five youth in the impact area participate in Detroit City FC youth programs, according to the organization The neighborhood council is seeking more effort to get kids in the area involved through a community soccer field, sports camps and partnerships with schools.

The group is also seeking long-term investments in arts and culture, including the Southwest VOCES oral history project, interpretive signage and public art installations telling the history of the neighborhood and Southwest Hospital. Other community investments include discounted tickets and merchandise for residents.

Mitigating construction impacts and supporting neighborhood liability were other major themes. The advisory group asked for 48-72 hour notice of road and sidewalk closures, public data collection on noise pollution, provide advance notice when construction falls on weekends or after 6 p.m., compliance with dust control measures and extend the community reporting period from two years to five years.

The advisory group asked Detroit City FC to plant shade trees, use permeable pavement and bioswales to address stormwater runoff where possible, and integrate bird safe design features to protect migratory birds. They also seek a beautification effort along Vernor that includes murals, lighting, signage and plantings.

The neighborhood group requested that Detroit City FC reject the use of facial recognition software used in Comerica Park and Ford Field.

Detroit resident Jack Dalton said he was disappointed with the lack of focus on transit, but members of the advisory council said they need to have discussions with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

"I found the presentation on (transit) pretty underwhelming," Dalton said. "We're still talking shuttles and encouraging carpooling. We're still not talking about a feasibility study for rail transit down Michigan Avenue, which would help all of these problems we're talking about."

Jessica Aho, strategic initiatives specialist at the Detroit People Mover, said there's an ongoing planning effort aimed at the possible expansion of the downtown elevated rail car. A survey is available for residents to weigh in. City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero also said she's committed to working with the state on taking a serious look at a rail line.

"Frankly, when I think of rail, I am not trying to recreate the QLINE or the People Mover," Santiago-Romero said Thursday. "I'm thinking trains. I'm thinking subways. I'm thinking something that actually works and something that's across the city as we're building, as we're growing. I'm hearing transportation is one of the number one issues why people are not staying, are not moving here, are not finding opportunity."

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Malachi Barrett is a mission-oriented reporter working to liberate information for Detroiters.

Barrett previously worked for MLive covering local news and statewide politics in Muskegon, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Detroit. He was named Michigan's 2019 Newspaper Rising Star by the Associated Press. Barrett graduated from Central Michigan University in 2016. Barrett lives in Detroit's Pingree Park neighborhood on the eastside with his wife. He's mostly from Battle Creek, but also lived in California, Wisconsin, West Virginia, South Carolina and Japan.

DHDC Celebrates Founder Angie Reyes' Retirement

By Michael D. Gutierrez

Angela Reyes stood before a packed retirement gala on September 26, reflecting on a career that began with her driving a blue Gremlin through Southwest Detroit's streets during the crack epidemic: twelve kids deep, one hanging out the window to manually move broken windshield wipers so she could see to drive (without any seat belts). At her home, a sign on her door read "No kids before 11am or after 6pm," though kids filled her house anyway.

"I can tell you many stories about what brought me here," Reyes told attendees at Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, the organization she founded in 1997. Stories of middle-of-the-night calls from distraught teenagers searching for mothers wandering streets after their sons were killed. Of telling a 14-year-old his best friend died. Of pulling a mother back from trying to jump into her 10-year-old son's grave after he died in a fire.

The gala celebrated 53 years of work creating pathways out of violence for Southwest Detroit youth, transforming a neighborhood once known as Michigan's most violent into one of Detroit's safest. Reyes officially retired in May after nearly three decades leading DHDC, with her son Lex Zavala appointed interim executive director in June to continue work they co-created over twenty years.

Raymond Elwart Jr., who goes by his artist name SouFy, opened the evening singing an Anishinaabe pipe song in the same building where he'd arrived over twenty years ago as a teenager "going down the wrong direction." Now 39, his work on the Flint water crisis has appeared on Democracy Now and earned him a 2018 Indigenous Music Awards nomination. "This place saved my life more than once," he said. "I'm one story out of many."

Reyes' approach in the 1980s scared even some eventual board members: she brought gang leaders together and brokered a truce. On Devil's Night, Detroit's notorious arson night, the peace held, and the city renamed it Angels Night. "We hired 20 gang members from each gang," one founding member recalled. The intervention worked because Reyes insisted on hiring the young people everyone else refused to serve.

"When other people saw scary guys, for me, those are my kids that I cared deeply about," Reyes said. Six once showed up at her sister's wedding reception because they saw her distinctive three-colored car in the parking lot. The "scary looking guys" others feared she considered her family.

This past summer, Julian Gonzalez, who started at DHDC at age eight and now leads the Community Violence Intervention team, resolved over two dozen disputes and mediations. "Two dozen less gunfire, two dozen less people killed," Zavala said. The Family Response team created in January fights deportation cases. The Sheltered Workforce Development program helps returning citizens gain employment and dignity after prison.

Franchesca Rivera, born in Puerto Rico, joined DHDC at 17 before serving eight years in the Marine Corps. Now a board member pursuing a master's in design and sustainability, she sees the organization practicing "cultural sustainability," where former participants become leaders who serve the next generation. "The cycle continues, and it all started in her living room," Rivera said.

Even the US State Department has consulted with Zavala for twelve years to learn DHDC's model, recognizing that young people join extremist groups for the same reasons they join gangs. Reyes explained the theory of change in her retirement speech: self-determination through leaders who share lived experience with those they serve. Staff come from the neighborhood, understand the community's struggles intimately enough to be trusted with them, and see not deficits within residents but gaps in surrounding systems.

"We have lived by the Mayan saying 'In Lak'ech,' which means 'I am another you,'" Reyes said. "That is why we have always opened our doors to whoever comes through them and provide them with unconditional love, helping them to find their true selves."

Reyes' 94-year-old mother attended the gala. Her great-grandfather ran a grocery store in Corktown for over 100 years. According to Zavala, that store occupied the same ground where the current DHDC sits. "For over 100 years, my family has been feeding this community right here," Zavala said. "And now we're not just feeding the stomach, we feed the soul, we feed the body."

The Detroit Lions received DHDC's Community Warrior award for donating over 20,000 pounds of goods during the February floods and funding summer meal programs. Ford Motor Company served as title sponsor. Board member Armando Betancourt, a Deloitte principal who has served nearly 18 years, noted that board chairman Joaquin Nuño-Whelan recently became president of Lincoln while maintaining his commitment to DHDC.

"This work is not a job. It is a calling that requires sacrifice, belief in the impossible, and most of all, love," Reyes said in her retirement speech. She concluded by reflecting on what made the work possible: "We could have chosen to do the easy thing and only serve those people who are already on a good path in their life, but then we wouldn't be the organization that we are today, and our community certainly wouldn't be the community that it is today."

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Michael D. Gutierrez is the Digital Content Manager for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. He is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

This article [and photos were] was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Congratulating Angie Reyes at the gala are, from right to left, Angie Reyes; DHDC Board Secretary Sandra Hughes-O'Brien; Armando Betancourt, Program Committee Chair, Principal at Deloitte and DHDC Board member, and guest. Photo DHDC Facebook

DHDC Interim Executive Director Lex Zavala -left- at Dreammakers Gala

DHDC Interim Executive Director Lex Zavala at Dreammakers Gala

Guests at DHDC Dreammakers Gala

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

El arzobispo Weisenburger llama a los católicos a ser testigos de esperanza para los inmigrantes

Con't de pg. 1

"Estoy profundamente agradecido con Strangers No Longer; su labor es una obra extraordinaria de la Iglesia y para la Iglesia", dijo el arzobispo Weisenburger. "La celebración de hoy nos recuerda el valor y la tenacidad de quienes han sido desplazados por conflictos, persecuciones, hambre, violencia y más."

Estudiantes y miembros de Strangers No Longer llevan pancartas y carteles en procesión antes del inicio de la Misa por el Jubileo de los Migrantes en la Catedral del Santísimo Sacramento en Detroit.

Antes de la misa hubo una procesión alrededor de la catedral con mantas y carteles que pedían un trato más humano para migrantes y refugiados. Mientras el grupo entraba, estudiantes de preparatoria leyeron testimonios de personas migrantes de todo el mundo, mostrando las razones por las que millones cruzan océanos, desiertos y selvas cada año con la esperanza de una vida mejor.

Pero al llegar a nuevos países, explicó el arzobispo, muchos migrantes se enfrentan a poblaciones que los miran con indiferencia o hasta con rechazo.

"Un dolor adicional para nuestros hermanos y hermanas que se ven forzados a moverse es la triste criminalización que muchos sufren alrededor del mundo", dijo Weisenburger. "Ante eso, me siento orgulloso y agradecido de ser católico."

El arzobispo recordó su experiencia como obispo en Tucson, Arizona, donde trabajó junto a migrantes en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, llegando a atender hasta mil cuatrocientas personas al día.

"Aun así, en muchas partes del mundo, nuestros hermanos son malinterpretados o acosados, si no perseguidos," comentó. "Por eso este domingo, en todo el mundo católico, celebramos algo que nos invita a enfocar la mirada y responder a la pregunta: ¿qué hace un verdadero cristiano, un discípulo de Jesús?"

Inspirado por las palabras del papa León XIV, Weisenburger destacó que los migrantes también pueden ser misioneros modernos, que llevan el mensaje de Cristo a nuevos lugares y revitalizan las comunidades que los reciben.

"El Santo Padre reconoce que, de una forma muy especial, los migrantes y refugiados católicos pueden ser misioneros de esperanza en los países que los acogen", dijo. "Con su entusiasmo y vitalidad espiritual, pueden incluso revivir parroquias que se han vuelto rígidas o apagadas."

La misa mostró la diversidad cultural de la Arquidiócesis de Detroit: hubo música del coro ugandés Catholic Community of Michigan, del coro Ste. Anne de Detroit, del Ensamble de Marimba de San Gabriel y del Coro del Sagrado Corazón. Las oraciones se leyeron en español, italiano, francés, gaélico y luganda.

Durante el ofertorio, migrantes y feligreses de familias inmigrantes ofrecieron símbolos de distintas partes del mundo, representando las luchas que enfrentan los pueblos desplazados. Una refugiada palestina presentó una olla vacía, símbolo del hambre que persiste en Gaza debido a la guerra con Israel.

Después de la comunión, el arzobispo Weisenburger bendijo a líderes de Strangers No Longer que viajarán a la frontera de Arizona y México para un encuentro binacional de apoyo a los derechos de los migrantes.

La directora de desarrollo de liderazgo del grupo, Amy Ketner, explicó que a quienes viajan los llaman "misioneros de esperanza."

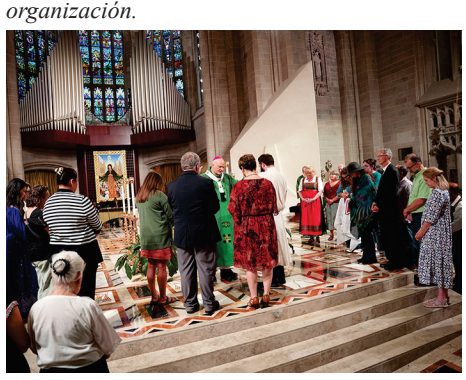
"Ellos están trabajando con migrantes en sus comunidades para recopilar historias y compartirlas con otros, de modo que aprendamos cómo servir mejor a nuestros amigos y vecinos, y que la gente los vea como parte esencial de la comunidad," dijo Ketner.

Como parte del Año Jubilar de la Esperanza 2025, el arzobispo otorgó una bendición apostólica a todos los presentes, con la posibilidad de obtener indulgencia plenaria si reciben la Eucaristía y la confesión en un tiempo razonable.

Della Lawrence, directora del ministerio estudiantil en Notre Dame Preparatory de Pontiac, dijo que sus alumnos están colaborando con los Círculos de Apoyo para crear conciencia sobre cómo ayudar a los migrantes en su entorno.

Lawrence reconoció que la migración es un tema político delicado, pero destacó que organizaciones como Strangers No Longer buscan poner el enfoque en las personas, no en las políticas.

Amy Ketner habló después de la Misa sobre Strangers No Longer y las formas en que las personas pueden involucrarse en la organización.



El arzobispo Weisenburger bendice a los miembros de Strangers No Longer antes de su partida hacia una reunión binacional de defensores de los derechos de los migrantes en la frontera entre Arizona y México

"Hay que empezar desde lo humano," explicó. "Cada persona tiene su historia, su cultura, su raíz. Así que comenzamos compartiendo nuestras tradiciones, nuestra comida, nuestras celebraciones. Muchos ya no tienen hogar porque tuvieron que huir. Cuando compartimos esas historias, las conversaciones se vuelven más reales y la gente empieza a entender."

Cerrando su homilía, el arzobispo Weisenburger reflexionó sobre el Evangelio de San Lucas, donde Jesús habla del siervo que, tras trabajar en el campo, todavía prepara la cena para su amo. Así también, dijo, los discípulos de Cristo están llamados a servir sin esperar recompensa, aunque a menudo la encuentran en el camino.

"Creo que la celebración de hoy empieza por abrir los ojos—entender la situación real y verla con la mirada de Cristo," dijo. "Al hacerlo, debemos comprometernos a trabajar sin esperar nada a cambio por el Cristo que encontramos en los migrantes e inmigrantes, sabiendo que, en medio de su sufrimiento, son ellos quienes también nos sirven."

Con voz serena, concluyó, "Habiendo servido al Señor, aprendamos de ellos a ser un pueblo de esperanza, un pueblo en movimiento, un pueblo que camina unido en el camino."

Editado y traducido con apoyo de IA, revisado por los editores.

Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger lauds the courage and faith of those forced from their homes

Con't from pg. 1

"I'm deeply grateful to Strangers No Longer; their work is an extraordinary work of the Church and for the Church," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "Today's celebration reminds us of the courage and the tenacity of those displaced by conflict, persecution, hunger, violence and more."

A Palestinian refugee shares her testimony and presents an empty bowl, a symbol of the starvation crisis unfolding in Gaza.

The Mass was preceded by a procession around the cathedral, which featured banners calling for the humane treatment of migrants and refugees. As the procession entered, high school students read testimonies from migrants around the world, painting a picture of why millions of people every year brave oceans, deserts and jungles, leaving everything behind in hopes of finding a better life.

When migrants reach a new country that offers a chance of reprieve, they are often met by a population that is indifferent, or even hostile, to their presence, Archbishop Weisenburger said.

"An additional pain for these beloved ones who are forced to move on is the sad villanization attributed to many around the world," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "In the face of that, I'm so proud and grateful to be Catholic."

The archbishop recalled his previous experiences as bishop of the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona, working alongside immigrants at the Mexico-U.S. border, where at their peak they served 1,400 immigrants a day.

"Yet around the world, these cousins of ours are maligned and oftentimes harassed, if not persecuted," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "So I think it's fair to say that this Sunday's universal celebration throughout the entire Catholic world is intended to help us focus our vision where it must be, and then answer that question: 'What is a Christian? What does a disciple of Jesus do?'"

Borrowing from Pope Leo's homily earlier in the day, Archbishop Weisenburger noted how migrants can be modern-day missionaries, carrying the message of Jesus Christ from one place to another, and invigorating their new communities.

"The Holy Father knows that in a very unique way, Catholic migrants and refugees can be missionaries of great hope in the countries that welcome them, forging new paths of faith where the message of Jesus has not arrived," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "With their spiritual enthusiasm and vitality, they can even help revitalize parishes that have become rigid and weighed down."

The Mass itself featured the rich tapestry of cultures in the Archdiocese of Detroit, with music provided by the Ugandan Catholic Community of Michigan Choir, the Ste. Anne de Detroit Choir, the St. Gabriel Marimba Ensemble and the Sacred Heart Choir. Prayers of the faithful were read in Spanish, Italian, French, Gaelic and Luganda.

During the offertory, migrants and parishioners

Continues on page 7

Young people hold photos of migrants and read their testimonies before Mass begins.

Detroit Officials Implement New Truck Traffic Restrictions in SW Detroit

By Santiago Esparza

As of this past Monday, October 6, the City of Detroit have implemented new restrictions in Southwest Detroit that will become a citywide initiative aimed at keeping large commercial trucks out of neighborhoods.

For years, Southwest Detroit residents have complained that the heavy trucks use residential streets as shortcuts to Interstates 94 and 75, causing environmental issues, damaging streets and hitting homes and businesses throughout the day and night.

The new restrictions only allow the trucks on thoroughfares that run through neighborhoods if they are making a delivery or picking up a shipment. It will block them from other routes and drivers will face tickets if they violate the new restrictions.

"We know this is a long time coming," said Raquel Garcia, executive director of Detroit Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision. "My heart is pounding with joy."

City officials also will work with trucking companies, logistics companies and others in the transportation industry to make sure they understand the restrictions, said Sam Krassenstein, deputy director of the Detroit Department of Public Works and Chief of Infrastructure for the city.

"Trucks have been using many streets in southwest Detroit to get to freeways," he said. "Quite frankly, we let them."

City officials have studied the issue for years and formulated the restrictions to cut down on the traffic. They are looking at other parts of the city to also target with the restrictions.

Detroit Police Assistant Chief Franklin Hayes said officers will keep a close eye on trucks to ensure they are in the right areas. He said it is unfair that residents have to put up with the situation.

"This quality of life issue has plagued this community for far too long," he said.

City officials said not all drivers are creating this issue and the restrictions are not an attack on the transportation industry. But something had to be done because thousands of trucks are on the road in the city every day. The Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal (DIFT), for example, sees more than 1,200 truck trips, according to city data.

Detroit City Councilmember Gabriel Santiago-Romero has worked on the issue since she took office. She said she will continue to work with the city's law department to beef up ordinances and educate drivers.

"This is quite the beginning," she said. "We have a long way to go."

Longtime resident Simone Sagovac, who also is the director of the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition, said neighborhood activists have worked since 2009 on gathering information to get the city to take action. She wants to see the restrictions implemented across the city.

"It is a safety issue," she said. "It is an economic issue and a health issue."

Greg Mangan, a real estate advocate for the Southwest Detroit Business Association, said good quality neighborhoods and business communities thrive when they feed off of each other.

"A great place to live is a great place to do business," he said.

To report issues, visit the city's new reporting platform at https://arcg.is/iGDbv0.

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Santiago Esparza is a Detroit-based freelance writer. He is a native of Southwest Detroit

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

No Trucks Allowed		• **Livernois** between Vernor / I-75 Service Dr. • **Dragoon** between Vernor / I-75 Service Dr. • **Clark** between Toledo / I-75 Service Dr. • **Scotten** between Toledo / I-75 Service Dr. • **W. Grand Blvd**. between Toledo / I-75 Service Dr. • **Lonyo** between St. John / Michigan Ave • **Central** between Parkwood / Michigan Ave • **Toledo** between Livernois / Scotten • **All streets** between Vernor, I-75 Service Dr., and Woodmere unless otherwise posted
Local Truck Access and Deliveries Only	EXCEPT LOCAL DELIVERIES / NO THRU TRUCKS	• **Central** between John Kronk / Parkwood • **Lonyo** between John Kronk / St. John • **W. Vernor** between Woodmere / Dix • **W. Vernor** between I-75 Service Drive / Livernois • **Springwells** between Vernor / I-75 Service Dr.
Approved Truck Routes	TRUCK ROUTE	• **Fort Street** (MDOT) • **Michigan Avenue** (MDOT) • **John Kronk** • **Dix** • **Livernois** north of Vernor • **I-75 Service Drive** • **Wyoming** (Wayne County) • **Miller** (Wayne County)

Truck Traffic Restrictions Map and chart. Courtesy of City of Detroit

Raquel Garcia, executive director of Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision speaks to the significance of the new truck traffic enforcement effort.

Immigrant Mass

Continued from page 6

with immigrant backgrounds presented Archbishop Weisenburger with symbols from around the world, which told stories about the struggles migrants have faced. One, a Palestinian refugee, presented an empty pot, symbolizing the continuing famine in Gaza due to the ongoing war with Israel.

After Communion, Archbishop Weisenburger blessed leaders from Strangers No Longer who will be traveling to the Arizona-Mexico border for a bi-national gathering of immigrant rights supporters.

Amy Ketner, director of leadership development for Strangers No Longer, said the group is calling those who will be traveling "missionaries of hope."

"Right now, they are working with immigrants in their communities to gather stories that they can share with others, so we know better how to serve our friends and neighbors and get people to see the immigrants and migrants as integral parts of their communities," Ketner said.

As part of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, Archbishop Weisenburger imparted an apostolic blessing upon the assembly, which offers the possibility of a plenary indulgence, provided those receiving it receive the Eucharist and confession within a reasonable amount of time.

Della Lawrence, director of campus ministry at Notre Dame Preparatory in Pontiac, said students at the school are working with Circles of Support to spread awareness about what can be done to help migrants in their community.

Immigration is a contentious political topic, Lawrence acknowledged, but said groups like Strangers No Longer are trying to make the discussion about people, not policies.

"You have to start from a personal perspective," Lawrence said. "Everybody has a tradition, background, and culture they are coming from. So we start there and share with one another each other's traditions, food or celebrations. Often, people don't have a home anymore, because they had to flee. When we share these stories and get into the details, the conversations become more productive, and people begin to understand."

Concluding his homily, Archbishop Weisenburger reflected upon the Gospel reading from St. Luke, in which Jesus tells a parable of the servant commanded to fix supper for his master after working in the fields. Like the tireless servant in the Gospel, Christian disciples are called to do the work of the Master without expecting a reward — but often finding one anyway.

"I believe today's celebration involves first opening our eyes — understanding the real situation and seeing it through the vision of Christ," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "In doing so, we need to commit ourselves to working slavishly with no expectation of reward for the Christ we find in migrants and immigrants, while knowing in the end, in the midst of their suffering, it is they who are serving us.

"Having served him, let us learn from them how to be a people of hope, a people on the move, a people journeying together on the way."

Edited and translated using AI, reviewed by our editors.

Members of Strangers No Longer process around the campus of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit before Mass, carrying signs in support of immigration rights.

Students play music in the plaza of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament following the Jubilee of Migrants Mass on Oct. 5.

NATIONAL HISPANIC

The 7th Annual Talentos Latinos Awards Honor Latino Community Leaders Across Michigan

By Stephanie Sanchez | Photos by Fernando Molina

Last Friday, October 3, community members gathered at the Lincoln Manor Banquet Hall in Lincoln Park for the 7th Annual Talentos Latinos Awards, a celebration recognizing leaders in the Hispanic community across Michigan.

Organized by the Minority Education Freedom Foundation and Latinos En Michigan TV, the empowering event was fittingly held during Hispanic Heritage Month. Energy poured out of the main room doors, hearing the live performance by Rosalina Molares and seeing everyone dressed in their best, leading attendees to anticipate what was to come. The room quickly filled with a sense of community poised to enjoy a celebration but to also recognize the importance and impact of Michigan's Latino community. Guests mingled in light conversation surrounding the photo booth prior to the decorated tables being endowed with authentic cuisine: chicken, Barbacoa, rice, and more!

The night started off with a national anthem performance by Sebastian Duque, a versatile musician who combines technology and artistry, as well as a prayer from Kevin Casillas, Pastor of First Latin America Baptist Church. Lilianna Ospina and John Herbstreith, co-founders of Latinos En Michigan TV, welcomed the audience and the night officially began. The program honored 13 individuals whose work has had a meaningful impact across the state, while including lively performances all evening. Performances included: Flamenco, Reflejos Latinos Ballet, Interlude by Adel Ruelas, Joyas de México, Juan Castañeda & Ana M. Boada, Kenya Cruz, and the energetic DJ Williams.

The following individuals were honored for their accomplishments:

- María Marín – Latina Legacy Award
- Sairy García – Latina Community Leader
- Marian Esnoval – Michigan Latina Entrepreneur
- Kenya Cruz – Latino Musical Talent
- Mario Alberto Martínez Méndez – Latino Activist Artist
- Cecilia Jaime Gutiérrez – Latina Education Leader
- Marco Márquez – Latino Volunteer
- Daphne Navarro – The Latinos que Inspiran Award
- Alejandra Walters – The Michigan Latina Realtor
- Sister Marie Benzing – Amiga de los Latinos Award
- Attorney Elizabeth Rosario – Latino Altruism
- Mayté Penman – Latina Business Ambassador
- Jesús Grillo – Latino Media Personality

Special award honorees included Jesús Grillo, co-founder of the only Spanish-language newspaper in Southwest Michigan New/Nueva Opinión, who was honored as Latino Media Personality; and Cecilia Jaime Gutiérrez, awarded Latina Education Leader for her role in expanding educational access and helping improve health and quality of life within the Latino community.

Throughout the evening, honorees gave insights into the work being done in our neighborhoods across Michigan—often, without recognition. The warm response of the audience acknowledging the importance of each contribution flooded the room with emotion.

Proceeds from the eventful night will help support Detroit community programs such as ProsperUs, which provides financial education for aspiring Hispanic entrepreneurs, and Latino Voices in Tech, focused on increasing Latino representation in the technology fields. The digital media outlet Latinos En Michigan TV is also supported by the event's fundraising.

Many community sponsors were in attendance, showing continued support for Hispanic-led initiatives in the region; Rocket Companies, Ideal Group, Amezola Tree Service, and more.

For many, especially those from Southwest Detroit and Downriver communities like Lincoln Park, the event served as both a celebration and a reminder of the talent and dedication around us. Special nights like the Talentos Latinos Awards are important not only for those who are recognized, but for the broader community. Bringing to light the leadership, creativity, and perseverance that exist within Michigan's Latinos population.

As the evening came to a close, guests lingered in the hall to greet old friends, take photos, and congratulate honorees. It was a proud night for many and just what the community needs—empowerment and unity.

Stephanie Sanchez is a Graphic Design and Digital Specialist at EL CENTRAL Hispanic News, passionate about using design to find solutions and give back to the community. She is an enthusiast of multidisciplinary art and creative expression.

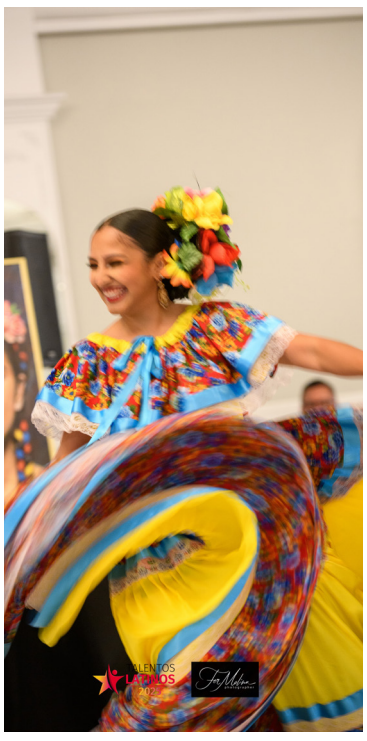
This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

(La Güera) Rosalina Morales

Pastor Kevin Casillas

Mc's Karina Lambaron and Laura Keil Mendoza

Sister Marie Benzing honored with the "Amigos de los Latinos" Award.



Congressman Shri Thanedar

Founder/host Liliana Ospina

Baile de lo diablo de los Espejos en Panama.

HERITAGE MONTH

La séptima edición anual de los Talentos Latinos Awards honra a los líderes de la comunidad latina en todo Michigan

Por Stephanie Sanchez | Fotos por Fernando Molina

El pasado viernes 3 de octubre, miembros de la comunidad se reunieron en el salón de banquetes Lincoln Manor en Lincoln Park para la séptima edición anual de los Talentos Latinos Awards, una celebración que reconoce a los líderes de la comunidad hispana en todo Michigan.

Organizado por Minority Education Freedom Foundation y Latinos En Michigan TV, el inspirador evento se llevó a cabo acertadamente durante el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. La energía emanaba de las puertas del salón, al escuchar la actuación en vivo de Rosalina Molares y ver a todos vestidos con sus mejores galas, lo que llevó a los asistentes a anticipar lo que estaba por venir. El salón rápidamente se llenó de un sentido de comunidad dispuesta a disfrutar de una celebración, pero también a reconocer la importancia y el impacto de la comunidad latina de Michigan. Los invitados conversaban animadamente alrededor del fotomatón antes de que las mesas decoradas fueran servidas con auténtica comida: pollo, barbacoa, arroz y más.

La noche comenzó con la interpretación del himno nacional por parte de Sebastián Duque, un músico versátil que combina tecnología y arte, y también con una oración de Kevin Casillas, pastor de la Primera Iglesia Bautista de América Latina. Lilianna Ospina y John Herbstreith, cofundadores de Latinos En Michigan TV, dieron la bienvenida al público y la noche comenzó oficialmente. El programa homenajeó a 13 personas cuyo trabajo ha tenido un impacto significativo en todo el estado, además de incluir actuaciones animadas durante toda la velada. Las actuaciones incluyeron: Flamenco, Reflejos Latinos Ballet, Interlude by Adel Ruelas, Joyas de México, Juan Castañeda & Ana M. Boada, Kenya Cruz, y el enérgico DJ Williams.

Las siguientes personas fueron honradas por sus logros:

- María Marín – Premio Latina Legacy
- Sairy García – Líder de la comunidad latina
- Marian Esnoval – Emprendedora latina de Michigan
- Kenya Cruz – Talento musical latino
- Mario Alberto Martínez Méndez – Artista activista latino
- Cecilia Jaime Gutiérrez – Líder Educativa Latina
- Marco Márquez – Voluntario Latino
- Daphne Navarro – Premio Latinos que Inspiran
- Alejandra Walters – Agente Inmobiliaria Latina de Michigan
- Hermana Marie Benzing – Premio Amiga de los Latinos
- Abogada Elizabeth Rosario –Altruismo Latino
- Mayté Penman – Embajadora empresarial latina.
- Jesús Grillo – Personalidad mediática latina.

Entre los honrados con premios especiales se encontraban Jesús Grillo, cofundador del único periódico en español de Southeast Michigan, New/Nueva Opinión, que fue honrado como Personalidad Latina de los Medios de Comunicación; y Cecilia Jaime Gutiérrez, honrada como Líder Latina en Educación por su papel en la ampliación del acceso a la educación y su contribución a la mejora de la salud y la calidad de vida de la comunidad latina.

Durante la noche, los honrados compartieron información sobre el trabajo que se está realizando en nuestros vecindarios de todo Michigan, a veces sin reconocimiento. La respuesta cálida del público, que reconoció la importancia de cada contribución, llenó el salón de emoción. Los ingresos de la noche ayudarán a apoyar programas comunitarios de Detroit como ProsperUs, que ofrece educación financiera a aspirantes a empresarios hispanos, y Latino Voices in Tech, que se centra en aumentar la representación latina en los campos tecnológicos. El medio de comunicación digital Latinos En Michigan TV también se beneficia de la recaudación de fondos del evento.

Muchos patrocinadores de la comunidad asistieron al evento, mostrando su continuo apoyo a las iniciativas lideradas por hispanos en la región, como Rocket Companies, Ideal Group, Amezola Tree Service y muchos más.

Para muchos, especialmente para los residentes del Southwest Detroit y las comunidades ribereñas como Lincoln Park, el evento sirvió tanto como celebración como recordatorio del talento y la dedicación que nos rodea. Las noches especiales como la de los Talentos Latinos Awards son importantes no solo para los galardonados, sino también para la comunidad en general, ya que ponen de relieve el liderazgo, la creatividad y la perseverancia que existen entre la población latina de Michigan.

Al concluir la noche, los invitados se quedaron en el salón para saludar a amigos, tomar fotos y felicitar a los honrados. Fue una noche de orgullo para muchos y justo lo que la comunidad necesita: empoderamiento y unidad..

Stephanie Sánchez es especialista en diseño gráfico y digital en EL CENTRAL Hispanic News, apasionada por utilizar el diseño para encontrar soluciones y retribuir a la comunidad. Es una entusiasta del arte multidisciplinario y la expresión creativa.

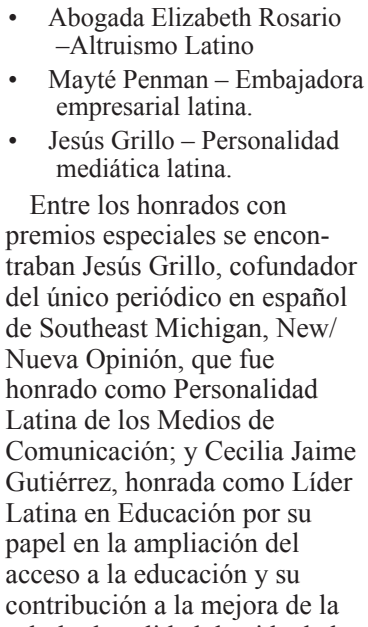
Este artículo ha sido posible gracias a una generosa subvención concedida a EL CENTRAL Hispanic News por Press Forward, el movimiento nacional para fortalecer las comunidades mediante la revitalización de las noticias locales. Más información en www.pressforward.news.

Jesús Grillo honored with the Latino Media Personality award

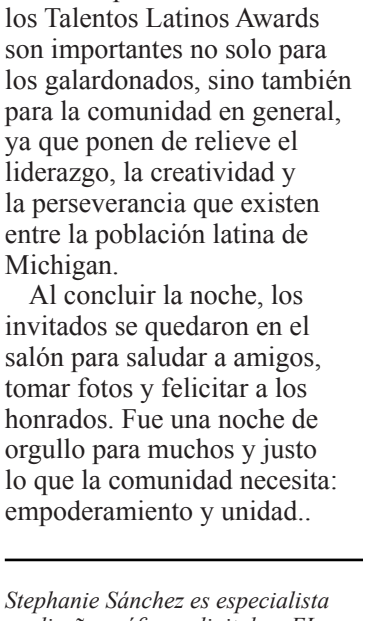
María Marín honored with the Latina Legacy award

Kenya Cruz honored with the Talento Musical Latino award

Sairy García, Latina Community Leader award



Marian Esnoval, Michigan Latina Entrepreneur award



Mario Martínez Méndez, Latino Activist Artist award

Daphne Navarro, The Latinos que Inspiran award

Alejandra Walters, The Michigan Latina Realtor award

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SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Wolverines Dominate Badgers, 24 - 10

Photos by Adam. J. Dewey

This past Saturday, the #15 University of Michigan Wolverines (4-1) defeated the Wisconsin Badgers (2-3), 24 - 10.

The Wolverines travel to Los Angeles, CA, this Saturday, October 11th to take on USC Trojans (4-1) at 4:30 pm PST/ 7:30 pm EST (NBC).

The Wolverines return to the Big House, on Saturday, October 18th, to host Washington Huskeys at noon (FOX), before Rivalry Weekend, on Saturday, October 25th, as the Wolverines travel to Spartan Stadium to take on the Michigan State Spartans.

Michigan State Spartans will be hosting the UCLA Bruins, this Saturday, October 11th at noon.

Photos below are highlights from the Wolverines vs. Badgers game

Michigan head coach Sherron Moore (right), running backs coach Tony Alford, and senior offensive analyst Fred Jackson watch a running play on the goal line

Bryce Underwood (#19) completes a pass to Marlin Klein (#17). Underwood was 19 for 28 for 270 yards with 1 TD

Donaven McCulley (#1) breaks free from the Wisconsin defense to score a 29 yard touchdown. McCulley had 6 receptions for 112 yards with 1 TD.

Justice Haynes (#22) breaks a big run for a first down. Haynes had 19 carries for 117 yards with 2 TDs

Michigan tight end Marlin Klein (#17) hurdles Wisconsin defenders. Klein had 2 receptions for 15 yards

Derrick Moore (#8) lays a shot on Badgers' QB Hunter Simmons. Moore had 3 tackles, 2 assists and 1 sack

DCFC Earns Vital Win

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

If ever a team needed a win, Detroit City FC had to win last Saturday. They had to end a three game losing streak during which they failed to score any goals. North Carolina came into Keyworth looking to lock down the third spot in the Eastern Conference. A win for the visitors would have given them a firm grip of the next best spot behind the runaway leaders Charleston and Louisville.

DCFC finally gave the home fans what they wanted. Le Rouge came away with a hard fought 2-0 win, giving them a three point cushion for a playoff spot with three games remaining. The third of four straight games at Keyworth to wrap up the home portion of the schedule took place on a sweltering October afternoon. The unusual heat had an impact on the players with several cramping up during the second half.

After three straight defeats, coach Danny Dichio made a two significant changes to the starting eleven. Carlos Herrera started in goal in place of Carlos Saldana and Isaiah LeFlore started on the left wing in place of Haruki Yamazaki. Herrera had the biggest impact on the game with a number of fine saves. However, the best save of the game came from captain Stephen Carroll with the score still 0-0. The visitors must have thought they had the lead when Pedro Dolabella's shot from the right side of the penalty area beat Herrera. Sensing the danger as Herrera moved out to cut the angle, Carroll stepped in behind him and cleared the ball off the line.

DCFC responded to that let off and forced the issue. Ates Diouf and Jeciel Cedeno caused North Carolina problems with their tenacity, something neither has shown consistently. Just before halftime, they worked together in attack and Cedeno drew a foul for a penalty kick. He converted to give the home fans something to sing about as the teams headed off for the halftime break.

North Carolina came out in the second half and controlled more of the ball. Herrera saved from Dolabella, turning his shot around the post for a corner in the 53rd minute. Herrera then caught several balls played into the penalty area under heavy pressure from the North Carolina forwards.

It looked like this would be a one goal game right to the end until Ates Diouf gave DCFC some desperately needed breathing room. Ryan Williams launched a corner kick into the penalty area. Devon Amoo-Mensah jumped up with at least one opponent. The ball ricocheted and Diouf slipped between two defenders and in front of the goalkeeper to nod the ball into the net. One could feel the relief amid the smoke and chants that greeted Diouf and his teammates during the celebrations.

That win may be one more crucial turning point in an inconsistent season. DCFC will close out the home schedule on Saturday against Loudoun United. Loudoun is just four points ahead of DCFC, but they aren't the team Le Rouge has to be concerned about. Ninth place Indy Eleven is just three points behind DCFC. That puts them under a lot of pressure, especially when the next game after Saturday is a trip to Charleston. DCFC lost to Loudoun 3-2 during their summer swoon in mid-June. At least four starters from that game are unlikely to be part of the game this weekend. Connor Rutz, Ben Morris, and Rhys Williams have season ending injuries and Dominic Gasso has been parked in the reserves. Again, it's a must win game. At this point in the season, every game is.

POCHETTINO GETS SERIOUS

The US national team has three more camps before the World Cup. US Soccer has stepped up the pressure by inviting qualified teams to come to the US and meet the hosts in friendly games. Last month, South Korea and Japan gave the Americans a taste of the level of play they are likely to see in the group phase of next summer's tournament.

This month Ecuador and Australia will be the opponents. Both came through marathon qualifying tournaments to secure their spots in World Cup 2026. Much like in September, these are the types of teams the US is likely to draw for the group phase.

Mauricio Pochettino declared after the September games that his experiments have come to an end and we will see rosters that look more like what he will select at the end of May. To that end a number of Europe base players, who missed previous camps for a variety of reasons, have returned. Brendan Aaronson has won a starting job at Leeds United. He didn't play much during the Gold Cup, but his aggressiveness fits the Pochettino mold. Weston McKennie missed the Gold Cup due to his commitments with Juventus. It looked like the Italian club didn't want him at the beginning of the season, but he has played full matches in the UEFA Champions League and Serie A in recent weeks. Tanner Tessman has also been a major contributor to his club, Olympique Lyon, after being left out of the Gold Cup.

Antonee "Jedi" Robinson has returned after knee surgery. He hasn't played many minutes for Fulham, so his minutes with the national team will likely be managed. There has also been a recall in defense for Miles Robinson of FC Cincinnati and Cameron Carter-Vickers of Celtic as Pochettino looks to fill out his pool of central defenders. Matt Freese, Matt Turner, and Patrick Schulte are the three contenders for the goalkeeper position with Freese having the edge due to his Gold Cup performances.

Ricardo Pepi and Sergino Dest have been left out. Pepi is injured again. He had to leave his last game for PSV 10 days ago after just 30 minutes with a muscular injury in his leg. Dest returned from injury and played over 70 minutes last weekend, but will be rested, giving Orlando's Alex Freeman more time in Pochettino's system.

Pepi's absence will give Folarin Balogun a chance to lock down the starting striker position. Josh Sargent did not get a recall after yet another scoreless run out for the national team. He hasn't scored for his club since the international break either. Haji Wright has continued to be hot for Coventry City, unbeaten at the top of the English Championship, and will compete with Derby County's Patrick Agyemang for the second striker spot. Club America's Alejandro Zendejas has been his team's best player, much like Christian Pulisic at AC Milan. Together with Wright, they formed the attack for the US U17 team eight years ago.

Pochettino tried a three man defense against Japan during the last international break and will probably test that again at some point. Both Freeman and Columbus' Max Arfsten are more comfortable as wingbacks and most of the central defenders play in that formation for the clubs. Pochettino has now created competition at every position. Perhaps only Pulisic and Tyler Adams, not called in for this camp because his wife is due with their second child any day, are certain of starting. The Argentine manager has also found two systems of play, one with a back four and the other with a back three, in which his team can play. The flexibility will come in handy if there are injuries or game situations that demand alterations in the formation.

After the October games against Ecuador (Friday night in Austin, TX) and Australia (Tuesday in Denver, CO), the US will host Uruguay and Paraguay in November. December's World Cup draw will make things even more real as first three opponents come into focus. US Soccer is looking to schedule at least one, if not two big name European opponents for March. The first team looks like being Portugal with Belgium rumored as the second. These won't be confirmed until after World Cup qualifying finishes in Europe.

For the players in camp this month, it is truly crunch time. Given that Adams, Pepi, and Dest are near certain selections if healthy, that means all three areas of the team have top level players who will want to compete for a World Cup spot. If the players in camp want to be part of the World Cup next summer, they had best be prepared to give their all.

Tigers and Mariners in ALDS

Photo provided by Detroit Tigers

The Detroit Tigers are in the ALDS (American League Divisonal Series) against the Seattle Mariners, the series is currently tied at 1-1 (as of Tuesday afternoon, with game 3 this past Tuesday and game 4 this past Wednesday in Detroit). Game 5 of the series will be on Friday, October 10th in Seattle if necessary at 4:40 pm. The winner of this series moving onto the ALCS (American League Championship Series) with game 1 on Sunday, October 12th.

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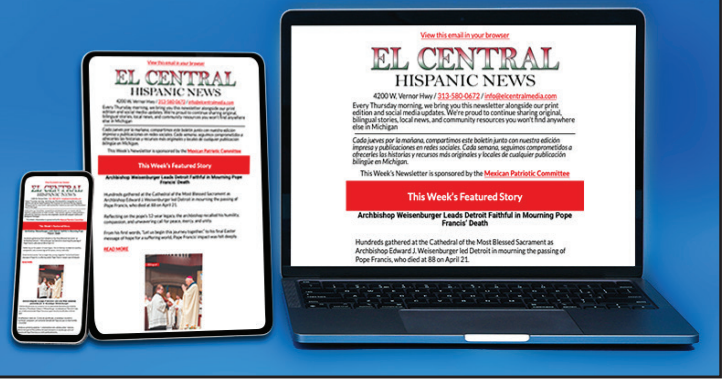

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Supreme Court clears way for racial profiling in immigration raids

By Juan Ochoa, University of Michigan News

EXPERT Q&A

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in Noem v. Perdomo allows federal immigration agents to consider several factors, including race or ethnicity, language use, location and type of employment, under the suspicion that individuals might be undocumented immigrants.

Richard Primus, the Theodore J. St. Antoine Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, discusses his analysis of this landmark decision and its potential implications for civil liberties and equal protection under the law.

How can using race in immigration stops be legal?

The law has always permitted race to be a factor in whom law enforcement officers choose to stop. A typical suspect description includes the suspect's race. If a witness of a gas station robbery tells the police that the robber was a six-foot-tall elderly white man, the suspect's race will be one of the criteria that police use to decide whom to stop: they will not, in this case, stop Black or Asian men.

What's remarkable and deeply troubling about Noem v. Perdomo is that the court is permitting race to be used as a factor for law enforcement stops even when the authorities have little reason other than race to think that the particular individual they are stopping is a lawbreaker. If law enforcement authorities stopped everyone in Los Angeles County whom this decision permitted them to stop, they'd stop enormous numbers of people, most of whom have done nothing wrong.

What does this mean for the future of our justice system?

If the decision stands, it means that at least in certain parts of the country, people who look Latino, or who speak Spanish in public, or who speak English with Latin American accents in public, and who do so in any of the many locations that the Supreme Court identified as places where unlawful immigrants are often found—including bus stops and low-wage workplaces—will have a reasonable fear that they will be accosted by law enforcement officials and asked to show proof of citizenship or legal residence.

Based on experience, we have reason to think that the stops will often be impolite and that they will sometimes be violent. This is a terrible state of affairs for U.S. law. In my own view, the Supreme Court is deeply mistaken: the Constitution is better understood to prohibit the practice. And if the court is right that the Constitution permits this, the Constitution should be changed.

Could this create a second-class status for some Americans?

It all depends on what one means by second-class status. There's no such thing, officially, as second-class status, so different people understand the idea differently. The Supreme Court's decision creates a situation where some people are more likely than others to be subject to race-based suspicion from law enforcement. That could reasonably be described as making some people second-class Americans. But it's bad whether we describe it that way or not.

Did cases like Dred Scott or the Chinese exclusion cases diminish the United States' global standing? Will this decision have a similar effect?

Historically, I'm not at all sure that those Supreme Court decisions had long-term adverse effects on the global standing of the United States. The decisions are shameful, but that doesn't mean that they hurt the country's global standing.

But I do think that it will be a terrible thing for the global standing of the United States if the country comes to be known as a place where nonwhite people and people for whom English is not their native language are subject to arbitrary suspicion and detention.

Juan Ochoa is the Spanish communication representative for Michigan News at the University of Michigan. This story was provided to El Central Newspaper by Michigan News.

Corte Suprema despeja el camino para el perfilamiento racial en redadas de inmigración

Por Juan Ochoa, Noticias de la Universidad de Michigan

El fallo reciente de la Corte Suprema en el caso Noem v. Perdomo ha despejado el camino para que los agentes federales de inmigración puedan considerar varios factores, como la raza o el origen étnico, el idioma que se habla, la ubicación y el tipo de empleo, bajo la sospecha de que las personas puedan ser inmigrantes indocumentados.

Richard Primus, Profesor Titular de Derecho Theodore J. St. Antoine en la Universidad de Michigan, analiza su evaluación de esta decisión histórica y sus posibles implicaciones para las libertades civiles y la igualdad de protección ante la ley.

¿Cómo puede ser legal el uso de la raza en las paradas de inmigración?

La ley siempre ha permitido que la raza sea un factor en la decisión de a quién detener por parte de los agentes del orden. La descripción típica de un sospechoso incluye su raza. Si un testigo de un robo a una gasolinera le dice a la policía que el ladrón era un hombre blanco anciano de seis pies de altura, la raza del sospechoso será uno de los criterios que la policía usará para decidir a quién detener. En este caso, no detendrán a hombres negros o asiáticos.

Lo que es notable y profundamente preocupante sobre Noem v. Perdomo es que la Corte está permitiendo que la raza se utilice como factor para las detenciones policiales incluso cuando las autoridades tienen pocas razones, aparte de la raza, para pensar que la persona específica a la que están deteniendo ha infringido la ley. Si las autoridades detuvieran a todas las personas en el condado de Los Ángeles a quienes esta decisión les permite detener, detendrían a un número enorme de personas, la mayoría de las cuales no han hecho nada malo.

¿Qué significa esto para el futuro de nuestro sistema de justicia?

Si la decisión se mantiene, significa que, al menos en ciertas partes del país, las personas con apariencia latina, o que hablan español en público, o que hablan inglés con acentos latinoamericanos en público, y que se encuentren en cualquiera de los muchos lugares que la Corte Suprema identificó como sitios donde a menudo se encuentran inmigrantes indocumentados, incluyendo paradas de autobús y lugares de trabajo con salarios bajos, tendrán un temor fundado de ser abordadas por agentes del orden y ser requeridas para mostrar pruebas de ciudadanía o residencia legal.

Basándonos en la experiencia, hay razones para pensar que estas detenciones a menudo serán descorteses y que a veces serán violentas. Esta es una situación terrible para la ley estadounidense. En mi propia opinión, la Corte Suprema está profundamente equivocada. La Constitución se entiende mejor como una norma que prohíbe esta práctica. Y si la Corte tiene razón y la Constitución lo permite, entonces la Constitución debería ser cambiada.

¿Podría esto crear una condición de ciudadanos de segunda clase para algunos estadounidenses?

Todo depende de lo que se entienda por "condición de segunda clase". Oficialmente, no existe tal cosa como un estatus de segunda clase, por lo que diferentes personas entienden la idea de manera distinta. La decisión de la Corte Suprema crea una situación en la que algunas personas tienen más probabilidades que otras de ser objeto de sospechas basadas en la raza por parte de los agentes del orden. Esto podría describirse razonablemente como una situación que convierte a algunas personas en estadounidenses de segunda clase. Pero es malo tanto si lo describimos de esa manera como si no.

¿Los casos como el de Dred Scott o los Casos de Exclusión China dañaron la posición global de Estados Unidos? ¿Tendrá esta decisión un efecto similar?

Históricamente, no estoy nada seguro de que ninguna de esas decisiones de la Corte Suprema tuviera efectos adversos a largo plazo en la posición global de Estados Unidos. Las decisiones son vergonzosas, pero eso no significa que hayan dañado la posición global del país.

Pero sí creo que será terrible para la posición global de Estados Unidos si el país llega a ser conocido como un lugar donde las personas no blancas y aquellas para quienes el inglés no es su lengua nativa están sujetas a sospechas y detenciones arbitrarias.

Juan Ochoa es el representante de comunicación en español de Michigan News en la Universidad de Michigan. Esta historia fue proporcionada a El Central Newspaper por Michigan News.

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Huicholes – Wixarikas

Huicholes / Wixámuris

The Wixárikas or Wixáricas, known in the rest of Mexico as Huichol, are an ethnic group located in the states of Nayarit, Jalisco, San Luís Potosí, Durango and Zacatecas. They live in the central west of the country, in the Sierra Madre Occidental. They call themselves Wixárika (the people) in their language, which belongs to the Uto-Aztec family of languages and which they call Wixaritari Waniuki.

The ethnonym Wixarika comes from the adaptation to the Nahuatl language of the autonomous Wixarika, due to the fact that in the Wixarika language the a can be heard as or; ryl are allophones, and the pronunciation of x, which was sibilant, was interpreted as affricate, tz, between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (when the loan of the word could have occurred), but the loss of the -ka syllable gave as Huitzol result in Nahuatl, and its Castilianization, Wirraricas.

The Wixárikas speak a language of the Wixarika group that is closely related to the language of the Nahua-Aztecoid group. In addition, they have received Mesoamerican influences, which is reflected in the fact that Huichol has typical features of the Mesoamerican linguistic area.

His traditional spirituality includes the collection and consumption of peyote (Lophophora williamsii), a cactus that has hallucinogenic effects due to its psychoactive alkaloids, including mescaline.

They are internationally recognized for their artistic creations and crafts, for the projection of their mythologies, the search for the grandfather, the white deer, the peyote.

Music: El Venado Azul, band

The Venado Azul band, from the Sierra Madre Occidental de Jalisco, in Mexico. Founded 18 years ago, in a region that had few houses, many elderly people and everything was different. Today everything has been changing, and the music of this band has crossed borders. The Venado Azul band became known when it participated in the documentary Made in Mexico, which deals with Mexican culture.

The name, Venado Azul, arose on a pilgrimage to Wirikuta, San Luis Potosí, a sacred territory in conflict over tenders to foreign mining companies. In Wirikuta ceremonies are held for deities. Jícuri (peyote) is collected.

Venado Azul is a sacred symbol for the Wixárika-Huichol community, which is why they chose this name, which represents the infinite and the guide.

Music is the mantra, magic, socialization, the combination to be able to talk with someone from heart to heart, from thought to thought. Music comes through culture, tradition, which awakens and is installed in the spirit to continue with traditional music, which is not composed by the human being, but listened to.

Drink Nawa - Tejuino

The nawa or tejuino is a drink prepared with corn whose use among the Wixaritari covers a whole world of meanings. In this text its use among the inhabitants of a Wixárika community is exposed, whose actions and knowledge show the different paths that the yeiyari (tradition) takes to continue on the path of the ancestors.

The preparation of the tejuino puts the corn to germinate under a layer of sand that is moistened and, once the corn has the first sprouts, it is washed and ground in a metate or mill. Water is boiled and the corn is poured into it; boil for many hours. Once the mixture of water and corn is boiled, it is emptied into containers in which it is left to rest for at least two days to ferment; the more time passes, the greater the fermentation. Preparing the nawa is a delicate process that falls on women, who must observe several prohibitions: not be menstruating; not having sexual intercourse days before and during the period in which the tejuino is made; do not eat sugar or sweet foods, for example, oranges, because all work is spoiled and the drink will turn out to be sweet; very different from the desired flavor. To this we must add the sleeplessness of the women, who must be supervising during the hours of the day and night that the intensity of the fire is correct so that the drink is good as it should. Men, for their part, must stay away from the place where the tejuino is made so as not to spoil it with their presence.

The tejuino, due to the material it is made of, represents to a certain extent the Wixárika family and the cooperation that exists in different areas among all its members: the man, the women, girls and boys who sow, take care of the sacred plant of corn and harvest it. Likewise, in preparation, the opposite or rather complementary poles, masculine-feminine, are always present and in constant relationship; the man who carries firewood and the woman who prepares the drink; Tejuino comes from dry corn (male), but which has germinated (female) and has been ground to be cooked in pots with water (female) slowly over the fire (male). It is served in jícaras or other containers (feminine) that represent the world, the totality of the human settlements.

Myth of the birth god of Fire: Tate'warí-Tai

Before, long before, in the Middle World, which is located under the sky and above the underworld, there was no fire, no moon, no sun, and no people. There were animals but they were all nocturnal because there was no light. Nobody knew anybody because nobody could see anything. Everyone collided with each other, some fought, others devoured each other. Animals lived in caves, in crevices, under stones. They all lived: the bat, the water lion, the owl, the owl, the badger, the rat, the wild cat, the opossum, the snakes and the scorpions. Everybody.

Then, one fine day, in the midst of the darkness, in her subterranean abode, Tate 'Yuliana'ka, Mother Earth, moved five times, trying to rise up.

In the first attempt to get up, everyone could see on the horizon something like the fire of a cigarette about to go out. On the second try, she managed to get a little higher and everyone saw something like a dark sun, like an eclipse sun. On the third attempt there was a strong shaking and something cleared, as if it were the beginning of a sunrise. The animals looked at each other in amazement, not knowing what it was. There was a fourth attempt that brought greater clarity and greater wonder.

Finally, when Mother Earth shook for the fifth time, there appeared, luxurious and warm, Tate'warí, the God of Fire who is also given the affectionate name of Tai. He appeared in the center of the world, in Teakata. Tai was a fire never seen before. The animals were ecstatic.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO, by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Huicholes – Wixárikas

Huicholes / Wixámuris

Los wixárikas o wixáricas, conocidos en el resto México como huichol, son un grupo étnico ubicado en los estados Nayarit, Jalisco, San Luís Potosí, Durango y Zacatecas. Habitan en el oeste central del país, en la Sierra Madre Occidental. Se autodenominan wixárika (la gente) en su lengua, que pertenece a la familia de las lenguas uto-aztecas y a la que llaman wixaritari waniuki.

El etnónimo wixarika proviene de la adaptación al idioma náhuatl del autónimo wixarika, debido a que en idioma wixarika la a puede llegar a oírse como o; r y l son alófonos, y la pronunciación de x, que era sibilante, se interpretó como africada, tz, entre los siglos XVII y XVIII (época en que pudo ocurrir el préstamo de la palabra), pero la pérdida de la sílaba -ka dio como resultado huitzol en náhuatl, y su castellanización, wirraricas.

Los wixárikas hablan una lengua del grupo wixarika que está cercanamente emparentada con la lengua del grupo nahua-aztecoide. Además, han recibido influencias mesoamericanas, lo cual se refleja en el hecho de que el huichol tiene rasgos típicos del área lingüística mesoamericana.

Su espiritualidad tradicional incluye la recolección y el consumo del peyote (Lophophora williamsii), un cactus que posee efectos alucinógenos debido a sus alcaloides psicoactivos, entre ellos la mescalina.

Son reconocidos internacionalmente por sus creaciones artísticas y artesanías, por la proyección de sus mitologías, la búsqueda del abuelo, el venado blanco, el peyote.

Bebida Nawa - Tejuino

El nawa o tejuino es una bebida preparada con maíz cuyo uso entre los wixaritari reviste todo un mundo de significaciones. En el presente texto se expone su uso entre los habitantes de una comunidad wixárika, cuyos haceres y saberes muestran los diferentes caminos que el yeiyari (la tradición) toma para continuar en el camino de los ancestros.

La preparación del tejuino pone a germinar el maíz bajo una capa de arena que es humedecida y, una vez que el maíz tiene los primeros brotes, se lava y se muele en metate o en molino. Se pone a hervir agua y se echa el maíz en ella; se deja hervir durante muchas horas. Una vez hervida la mezcla de agua y maíz, se vacía en recipientes en los que se deja reposar por al menos dos días para que fermente; entre más tiempo pase, mayor es la fermentación. Preparar el nawa es un proceso delicado que recae en las mujeres, quienes deben observar varias prohibiciones: no estar menstruando; no tener relaciones sexuales días antes y durante el lapso en que se elabora el tejuino; no comer azúcar ni alimentos

dulces, por ejemplo, naranjas, porque todo el trabajo se echa a perder y la bebida resultará dulce; muy distinta al sabor deseado. A lo anterior hay que sumar los desvelos de las mujeres, quienes deben estar supervisando durante las horas de día y noche que la intensidad del fuego sea la correcta para que la bebida quede bien como es debido. Los hombres, por su parte, deben permanecer alejados del lugar donde se elabora el tejuino para no echarlo a perder con su presencia.

El tejuino, por la materia de que está hecho, representa en cierta medida a la familia wixárika y la cooperación que existe en los diferentes ámbitos entre todos sus miembros: el hombre, las mujeres, niñas y niños que siembran, cuidan de la planta sagrada del maíz y lo cosechan. Asimismo, en la preparación, los polos opuestos o más bien complementarios, masculino-femenino, siempre están presentes y en constante relación; el hombre que acarrea leña y la mujer que prepara la bebida; el tejuino proviene del maíz seco (masculino), pero que ha germinado (femenino) y ha sido molido para ser cocido en ollas con agua (femenino) lentamente en el fuego (masculino). Se sirve en jícaras u otros recipientes (femenino) que representan al mundo, la totalidad de las rancherías humanas.

Cumbia Wixárika Cusinela, del Venado Azul

Cusi acusi cusinela tedenekiete kusinela ¡yaju!
ay kusinela kui kuitamai kuitamalele pamu yama techale papa, te baricare te ma kuitale si ra ya pomeme memechimao ni achou, nitze pa nou cuasi ya te ni ba ita ma atima catacu uti se le pemutei neya onemele la me chi taou nel e cusinel chita chita, chita pili pili pili me tu pine nia comermela meche tao eh cusinela ¡jeitzhee!
¡Salud cusinela pampa dios yaju!

(Coro 2) cusinela cusinela cuitamai cuitamai cuitamai cusinela, cusinela cusinela cuitamai cuitamai cuitamai cusinela, cusinela cusinela cuitamai cuitamai cuitamai cusinela, cusinela cusinela cuitamai cuitamai cuitamai cusinela, cusinela cusinela cuitamai cuitamai cuitamai cusinela, ¡acusi acusi cusinela!

ay kusinela kui kuitamai kuitamalele pamu yama techale papa, te baricare te ma kuitale si ra ya pomeme memechimao ni achou nitze pa nou cuasi ya te ni ba ita ma atima catacu uti china, le pemutei ne ya comermela me chi taou ne le cusinela ekuchi, meposelka tikitikitini tusi tusi tusi me tu pili e cusinela ¡eitzhe!
cusinela pampa dios salu cusinela pampa dios... [...]

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

Mito del nacimiento dios del Fuego: Tate'warí-Tai

Antes, mucho antes, en el Medio Mundo, que se ubica bajo el cielo y por encima del inframundo, no había fuego, ni luna, ni sol, ni gente. Había animales pero eran todos nocturnos porque no había luz. Nadie conocía a nadie porque nadie podía ver nada. Todos chocaban entre sí, algunos se peleaban, otros se devoraban. Los animales vivían en las cavernas, en las grietas, bajo las piedras. Vivían todos: el murciélago, el león de agua, el búho, la lechuza, el tejón, la rata, el gato montés, el tlacuache, las serpientes y los escorpiones. Todos.

Entonces, un buen día, en medio de las tinieblas, en su morada subterránea, se movió cinco veces Tate' Yuliana'ka, la Madre Tierra, tratando de alzarse.

En el primer intento por levantarse, todos pudieron ver en el horizonte algo así como la lumbre de un cigarro a punto de apagarse. En el segundo intento, logró alzarse un poco más y todos vieron algo así como un sol oscuro, como un sol de eclipse. En el tercer intento ocurrió una fuerte

sacudida y algo aclaró, como si fuera el principio de un amanecer. Los animales se miraban asombrados, sin saber qué cosa era aquello. Hubo un cuarto intento que trajo mayor claridad y mayor asombro.

Finalmente, cuando la Madre Tierra se sacudió por quinta vez apareció, lujoso y cálido, Tate'warí, el Dios del Fuego a quien también se da el nombre cariñoso de Tai. Apareció en el centro del mundo, en Teakata. Tai era una lumbre nunca antes vista. Los animales estaban extasiados.

KEEP THE STORY GOING . . .

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De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

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